

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration of the outstanding office action is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-13, and 15-21 remain in this application. Claims 1, 13, 15 and 21 have been amended. Claims 2, 5 and 14 have been canceled.

1. Drawings

The Examiner has indicated in the accompanying form PTO-948 that the formal drawings previously submitted have been approved.

2. Specification

Typographical errors in the specification have been corrected in the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 4 as appropriate.

3. Allowed Claims/Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated the subject matter of claims 2-4, 6, 11, 12, 14-17, 20 and 21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Independent claim 1 has been amended such that it now contains the limitation of deleted claim 2 and is therefore in condition for allowance. Claims 3, 4, 6-8, 11 and 12 all depend from amended claim 1 and are therefore also in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 13 has been amended such that it now contains the limitation of deleted claim 14 and is therefore in condition for allowance. Claims 15-21 all depend from amended claim 13 and are therefore also in condition for allowance.

4. Conclusion

Based upon the above amendments, remarks, and papers of record, Applicant believes the pending claims of the above-captioned application are in allowable form and patentable over the prior art of record. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending claims 1, 3-4, 6-13, and 15-21 and a prompt Notice of Allowance thereon.

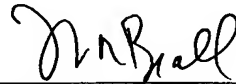
Applicant believes that no extension of time is necessary to make this Response timely. Should Applicant be in error, Applicant respectfully requests that the Office grant such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) as necessary to make this Reply timely, and hereby authorizes the Office to charge any necessary fee or surcharge with respect to said time extension to the deposit account of the undersigned firm of attorneys, Deposit Account 03-3325.

Please direct any questions or comments to Thomas R. Beall at 607-974-3921.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8: I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on February 22, 2005
Date of Deposit

Thomas R. Beall
Name of applicant, assignee, or
Registered Representative


Signature

February 22, 2005
Date of Signature